

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It will come as no surprise that, due to circumstances beyond our control, Trustees have had no choice but to cancel the planning, preparation and production of “La Boheme” this year. The opera concert planned at Ugbrooke Park, Chudleigh on 25th July is also cancelled for this year.

This is extremely disappointing but we must accept that due to the rapid spread of Covid-19 our whole way of life is being challenged in a way not seen before and for a longer period of time than first envisaged.

Some positive news to report is that we are currently re-scheduling our production of “La Boheme” for 2021. The 16th and 17th July have already been secured for performances at The Barn, Canonteign Estate, Christow, courtesy of Christopher and Kate Baylis and further performances are being planned around these dates at The Flavel, Dartmouth, The Exeter Barnfield Theatre and hopefully the RHS site at Rosemoor, Torrington.

Thanks particularly to the sterling efforts of trustee Professor Roderick Hunt, for his work on creating the much-needed new website. We now have a website that reflects the quality and professionalism of Devon Opera, is interesting, informative and easy to navigate! It is now live and can be viewed at: devonopera.co.uk.

As you are a Friend of Devon Opera, we would be delighted to include your name on our website and in printed programmes in recognition of your valuable support. If you would like this to happen, please advise Membership Secretary Valerie Jackson accordingly. Your support will remain anonymous if you do not take this step.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Elliot Bialick as a new trustee, who brings a considerable range of skills and experience to the company.

Discussions are ongoing with the National Trust for concerts at Agatha Christie's summer home, Greenway and Coleton Fishacre in November/December this year. More details, when finalised, will be shown on our website in due course.

Following the success of the Friends concert evenings at Aeolian Court, Chudleigh on 6th/7th December last year, trustees are looking to hold something similar towards the end of this year and details will be sent to you when agreed.

I am delighted to report that our new major sponsor, Atkins Ferrie Wealth Management, will be rolling over their sponsorship offered this year to 2021 as will fine art auctioneers, Bearnas Hampton and Littlewoods. We are also in discussion with other supporters.

Your ongoing support, as a Friend of Devon Opera, is hugely appreciated and valued and I hope that you have all been able to see and experience the quite amazing standard that has been achieved with recent productions. Maintaining this standard is always challenging but with your support now and in the future, I am confident that Devon Opera will be able to continue to offer a valued and appreciated platform for professional singers and musicians and enjoyment of opera for many.

Yours sincerely and keep safe.

Robert Hough
Executive Chairman